Students urged to use technology, social media responsibly

By Tariq Naqash

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Minister for Information, Auqaf and Religious Affairs Mohammad Rafique Nayyar on Thursday urged students to make responsible and positive use of modern technology and social media, saying media literacy had become essential in the fast-paced digital age to distinguish between correct and incorrect information.

He was speaking as the chief guest at a special awareness workshop on media literacy and social media organised by the Pakistan Information Department (PID) at a private hotel in Muzaffarabad. The workshop was attended by students as well as some media representatives.

Mr Nayyar said students were the bright future of the country and that the modern educational, technical and digital facilities available today should be used constructively for personal development as well as for the betterment of society. He warned that the irresponsible use of social media could be harmful not only to individuals but also to society as a whole.

Recalling his own student days, the minister said that in the past students had to pursue their education with limited resources, whereas technology had now made access to knowledge much easier. He said he obtained his law degree from Punjab University in 1983, at a time when there was no internet or social media, yet students progressed through hard work, discipline and commitment.

Referring to a painful personal experience, he said that while he was a student at Mirpur College in 1977, he received the news of his sister's death four days after it had occurred, as there were no advanced means of communication at the time.

He said this highlighted how dramatically the media landscape had changed over the years.

The minister said that in the era of social media, news travelled across the world within moments, making media literacy more important than ever, particularly for young people. He urged students to use technology for constructive purposes such as education, research and positive expression.

He also advised the youth to remember the hard work and sacrifices of their parents, live up to their expectations and bring pride to their families through their character and conduct. He said discipline, punctuality and adherence to moral values were essential for success in life, adding that a well-informed and principled young generation was the foundation of a strong and developed society.

Assistant Director (Admin) of the PID Islamabad, Mujtaba Ahmed, along with Dr Mubashar Naqvi from AJK University, Raja Nasir Latif and others, also addressed the workshop.At the close of the event, the minister distributed certificates among the participants.

Minister wants mosques on Murree Expressway

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Thursday directed the National Highway Authority (NHA) to construct Mosques at rest areas on both sides of the Islamabad–Murree Expressway (IMDC) with separate prayer arrangements for women.

He issued these directives after conducting a detailed inspection of the Islamabad–Murree Expressway. The minister reviewed the completed beautification, expansion and other development works.

On the occasion, the minister was briefed that all major works on the Expressway (IMDC) have been completed and the project is ready for inauguration, which will be carried out by the Prime Minister of Pakistan in the near future. Expressing satisfaction over the rest area facilities provided at the expressway, Abdul Aleem Khan personally identified locations for the expansion of Mosques, construction of ablution areas and other allied facilities under his supervision.

He directed the concerned officers to complete the remaining works on the Murree Expressway within a final deadline of one week, emphasising that quality and long-lasting construction must be ensured at all costs. He stated that NHA has maintained high construction standards throughout the project while ensuring the provision of excellent lighting, green areas, service roads and other essential facilities.

The minister further informed that a new Toll Plaza equipped with M-Tag has also become operational, which will provide modern and improved services to tourists. He added that the removal of road cuts and encroachments has made travel on the Murree Expressway safer.

With the completion of the Murree Expressway, tourists visiting Murree from across the country will enjoy a beautiful, comfortable and pleasant travel environment. — Bakhtawar Mian

TREES are being planted at Faizabad Interchange, which recently saw expansion of its loops. — Photo by Mohammad Asim

Digital property transfer, online building plan approval in Pindi soon

RDA says complete data collected for issuing QR codes on housing society files

By Aamir Yasin

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) has said it will soon launch a digital property transfer and online building plan approval systems in a few months.

The announcement was made at a meeting held to discuss facilitation of housing schemes and their regulators through electronic registration, an online property transfer system and approval of building plans under an integrated digital framework.

The meeting was chaired by RDA Additional Director General Mohammad Anwar Baran and attended by officials of the civic body and Punjab Land Record Authority (PLRA).

During the session, Hafiz Abdul Ghafoor, a representative of PLRA, said housing schemes will be on board through their respective regulators using an online web portal for which functional prototypes had already been developed. He stated that housing schemes will utilise the Property Transfer System (PTS) for securing transactions and transferring properties.

The approval of building plans will be carried out through the online web portal, ensuring transparency, accountability, and time-bound processing.

Ghafoor added that the property transfer system will be formally launched from February 15, after which the manual system will be completely phased out.

The digital system will provide ease and convenience to the general public by enabling simple online applications, quicker access to approvals and NOCs, reduction in human intervention and facilitation in marketing and sale of plots, thereby promoting transparency, efficiency, and good governance in the real estate sector.

The RDA management emphasised its commitment to leveraging technology for improved service delivery and urged all stakeholders to actively participate in the digital transformation initiative.

The authority said continuous support and training will be provided to ensure a smooth transition to the online systems.

The additional director general reaffirmed that the authority would not tolerate any form of illegal or unauthorised development, especially in areas declared sensitive by regulatory bodies. He added that strict enforcement operations will continue to protect public interest, ensure urban planning discipline and prevent fraudulent development practices.

"RDA strongly advises citizens to avoid investing in unauthorised housing schemes and to verify the legal status of any project through official RDA platforms before making financial commitments."

He directed the MP&TE directorate to take strict actions against all illegal/unauthorised housing schemes, commercial activities, booking offices and encroachments.

The RDA reiterated its commitment to protecting the rights of citizens, ensuring strict compliance with urban development laws and taking decisive action against any form of fraud or malpractice within its jurisdiction.

"The authority remains determined to uphold transparency, strengthen internal accountability mechanisms, and safeguard the public interest against any exploitation."

The meeting was informed that all illegal housing societies were under RDA's scrutiny, and complete data had been collected for issuing QR codes on housing society files.

Housing societies with valid NOCs are legally recognised, and the QR code system has been activated to protect citizens from fraud. RDA's actions against illegal housing schemes have also been appreciated by the NAB.

Police seal FIR over New Year's eve clash at private housing society

By Munawer Azeem

ISLAMABAD: The capital police have registered a case over a clash that erupted during a musical night held on New Year's eve at a private housing society, but later sealed the FIR for reasons that remain unclear, *Dawn* has learnt.

According to sources in the police, the case has been registered at the Banigala police station on a complaint filed by an official of the management of the housing society.

The case has been registered under sections 148 (rioting, armed with a deadly weapon), 149 (unlawful assembly guilty of offence committed in prosecution of common object) and 440 (mischief committed after preparation made for causing death or hurt) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

The sources said the FIR [first information report] had been sealed on verbal directives of senior officials.

They said the musical night was organised to celebrate the New Year, for which tickets were sold at the rate of Rs5,000 for families and Rs2,000 for individuals. However, tickets were allegedly sold far beyond the venue's capacity and without adequate arrangements for crowd management.

The situation became tense when a large number of ticket-holders gathered outside the venue and the security guards allegedly stopped them from entering, triggering protests by some young participants.

According to the sources, security personnel baton-charged the protesters and both sides were seen resorting to stone-pelting. In the video clips, which went viral on social media, the protesters can be seen damaging the property.

Meanwhile, legal experts believe that the act of sealing FIRs is a violation of court orders. In June 2019, Judicial Magistrate (West) Rana Mujahid Rahim had directed the capital police not to seal any FIR, declaring the practice illegal and unconstitutional.

The court had ruled that withholding copies of FIRs violated the fundamental rights of both the complainant and the accused, as guaranteed by the Constitution.

The order was issued in response to a petition filed by then Pakistan Peoples Party senator Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar, who had sought directions for the police to provide him a copy of an FIR registered against him at Margalla Police Station.

In its ruling, the court observed that "the police have no authority to seal an FIR" and described the practice as "ill-motivated", aimed at enabling arbitrary arrests without allowing suspects to exercise their rights under Section 498 of the CrPC.

A retired judge of the Lahore High Court Chaudhry Abdul Aziz, when contacted, said there was no law or rule empowering police to seal the FIR. According to the Police Rules, the copies of the FIR should be given to complainant, magistrate and investigation officer, he added.

Some senior police officers, on condition of anonymity, told Dawn that Section 157(2) of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), which empowers a station house officer (SHO) to suspend an investigation on suspicion and conduct a preliminary inquiry, was being misused for sealing FIRs.

Deputy Inspector General of Police (Operations) Jawad Tariq and Senior Superintendent of Police (Operations) Ali Raza Qazi were unavailable for comment despite repeated attempts.

PEOPLE'S PRIMARY HEALTHCARE INITIATIVE, BALOCHISTAN

PPHI-B

(Regd. Under Section 42 of Companies Ordinance, 1984)

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The People's Primary Healthcare initiative (PPHI) Balochistan registered under section 42 of the Companies Ordinance, 1984 (Now the Companies Act, 2017) is filling following vacancies purely on temporary basis as given below.

Name of Posts	No of Posts	Qualification / Experience	Age
District Manager (DM)	06	A BS-17/18 officer of CSS/BCS (BSS,Ex-BCS) cadres preferably having 2 years' service in government. Officers/candidates having medical background or possessing working experience in Project Management & Health Sector reform are encouraged to apply. Officers are required to apply through proper channel. OR Masters in Social Science, Executive MBA, MSPH, MBBS or equivalent from any recognized university with 3 years of relevant experience.	23-50
Assistant Manager (Finance) Head Office PPHI-B Quetta	01	Applicants must have a minimum qualification of MBA (Finance), M.Com, ACCA (Level-III), or CA (Inter) from any recognized university with a minimum of three (03) years of relevant experience in the field of finance.	18-50
Vaccinator	40 (All Districts except District Quetta)	Applicants must have a minimum qualification of matriculation in Science, with preference given to those possessing relevant prior experience. For positions at Basic Health Units (BHUs), candidates should be residents of the same catchment population.	18-50
Class IV Employee (Full Time/ Part Time)	129 (All Districts except District Quetta)	Candidates must be literate, and preference will be given to those with prior work experience. For positions at Basic Health Units (BHUs), candidates should belong to the same catchment population.	18-50

Terms and Conditions:

1. The positions will be filled purely on temporary basis under control and management of PPHI-B for one year initially, extendable on annual performance report.
2. Applicants holding local domicile shall be given preference.
3. Only the short-listed candidates will be called for written test & interview on a date and time to be communicated.
4. On detailed scrutiny of documents if found ineligible, his/her candidature will be rejected.
5. No TA/DA is admissible for appearing in the test/interview.
6. The Company reserves the right to amend/cancel the hiring process or number of posts at any stage.

How to apply:

1. **Application Submission:** Please fill out the application form till **13th Feburary, 2026.** **(https://forms.gle/vEwfMtxtAV92tJyQA)**
2. **Shortlisting & Assessment:** PPHI will contact shortlisted candidates for appearing in Written Test/Interview.
3. **Selection:** Offer letters will be issued to candidates who successfully clear all stages of the process. However, candidates on the waiting list will be offered the positions in case of non-joining of selected candidates in due course of time.
4. **Note:** Applications submitted by hand or any other mode except prescribed will not be accepted.

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For queries feel free to contact on the followings, Call: 081-2863620, 081-2862623, Fax: 081-2863642, www.pphib.org

Ministries performance review to help improve governance: minister

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Thursday said the government is committed to improving the country's governance model by reviewing the performance of all ministries.

Addressing a press conference here, the minister said the purpose of these performance reports is to strengthen self-accountability and ensure that ministers remain responsible for their duties.

He said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is keen to establish an exemplary governance model and has directed all ministries to present their performance reports before the public.

Dr Tariq said improvements are visible in several sectors, including investment, the power sector, maritime affairs, mines and minerals, and foreign affairs. He added that all-out efforts are also being made to address climate change challenges.

Referring to his own ministry, the minister said the Grievance Wing of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs is functioning efficiently to address public complaints. He said the wing received between 20,000 and 30,000 written complaints during 2025, in addition to thousands of complaints through telephone calls, and maintained a disposal rate of 93 per cent.

He said the Prime Minister's Grievance Wing, operating under the ministry, receives complaints from across the country, which are regularly followed up.

He added that people can lodge complaints on the universal number 111-555-554 for redressal.

The one-year performance report of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, he said, will be sent to the prime minister and also shared with the public through the media.

Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry said the role of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs is not limited to handling complaints and resolving issues.

It also provides effective platforms for political and public representation, helping to promote democracy, political stability and transparency in the country.

He said the prime minister has directed all ministers to inform the public about the targets set by their ministries for the next year and the progress achieved over the past year.

The minister said the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs maintains strong and effective coordination with allied parties and their suggestions and concerns are conveyed directly to the prime minister.

Regarding the Joint Action Committee of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), he said an agreement has been reached on 38 points, adding that around 90 per cent of the committee's demands have already been addressed.

Terming dialogue another name for democracy, the minister said the government is ready to hold talks with the opposition on all matters, but Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) remains divided on the issue.

He said dialogue is the best way to address national issues, adding that the prime minister has repeatedly extended offers of talks to the opposition. Appreciating the efforts of the National Dialogue Committee, he said the committee would need to secure the confidence of PTI to move forward with negotiations.

He said PTI has given political authority to Mahmood Khan Achakzai and that the party leadership should formally grant him a clear mandate.

He pointed out that there appear to be conflicting views within PTI regarding talks with the government, adding that the opposition could also use the office of the Speaker of the National Assembly to initiate dialogue with the government. — APP